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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Bates et al. : Date: January 7, 2002

Serial Number: Concurrent : Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: Concurrent : Examiner: Unknown

Title: GROUP-BASED SEARCH : IBM CORPORATION
ENGINE SYSTEM : Intellectual Property Law
: MD90/201-1
: 8501 IBM Drive
: Charlotte, NC 28262

JCE25 U.S. PTO
10/041933
01/07/02

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS) UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The attached Form PTO-1449, and any attached foreign patent office search report, provides a listing of information which may be relevant to the subject application. This IDS is not intended as a representation that better art is not available, nor that the information provided is prior art.

This IDS is submitted under:

X 37 CFR 1.97(b) - No Fee.

37 CFR 1.97(c) - No Fee. Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. This communication is dated _____, which is not more than 3 months prior to the mailing of this statement.

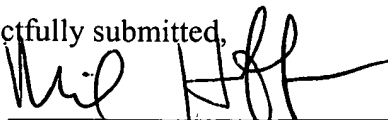
37 CFR 1.97(c) - Fee.

37 CFR 1.97(d) - Fee, Certification & Petition.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payments of any associated fees required under 37 CFR 1.17(p) and (i) (1) to Deposit Account No. 09-0469 (IBM).

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Michael F. Hoffman
Registration No. 40,019
Telephone No.: (518) 449-0044